



Province Leadership Installation Liturgy

Ancilla Domini Chapel

Saturday, November 8, 2025

2:00p.m.

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Standing at the Threshold of the Unimaginable



*The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ,
with joy and confidence in the Spirit's guidance,
announce the election of the
2025–2029 Leadership Team of the U.S. Province.*

Province Leadership 2025-2029

Sister Shirley Bell, Province Leader

Sister Deborah Davis, Vicaress and Councilor

Sister Marybeth Martin, Councilor

Sister Connie Bach, Councilor

Sister Margaret Anne Henss, Councilor

We offer heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing U.S. Province Leadership Team for their faithful and Spirit-led service from 2021 to 2025. As three members continue in the newly elected team, we also recognize and celebrate Sister Nkechi Iwhuoha, PHJC, who completed her term and was recently elected to the PHJC Congregation Leadership Team in Germany.

The theme of our recent Chapter, Standing at the Threshold of the Unimaginable is signified by the logo of reaching beyond our present horizon into the future. The moon and star light seen in the sanctuary symbolizes this journey led by the light of the Holy Spirit.

Prelude

Welcome

Sister Nkechi, PHJC

Outgoing Province Councilor, Newly Elected Councilor to Congregation Council in Germany

Gathering Hymn

Called by Christ

1. Called by Christ, you built on the bed - rock,
2. Called by Christ, you of - fer God's chil - dren
3. Called by Christ, you thirst af - ter good - ness.

God who was faith - ful through each pass - ing year.
Food for their hun - ger and songs for the soul.
Seek - ing God's pres - ence you sure - ly will find.

Spir - it - led, you wel - come the stran - ger,
Spir - it - led, you look to the fu - ture,
Spir - it - led, you plant for the har - vest,

Prom - ise of new life a - wak - en - ing here.
hand to your la - bor and eye on the goal.
Peace, love, and jus - tice for all hu - man - kind.

Refrain

Sing, sing, sing of God's good - ness. Cel - e - brate love a -
live here to - day. Share, share life in the Spir - it.

Look for God's reign and seek Je - sus' way.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth

peace to peo - ple of good will.

Verses

1. We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Reading 1

Revelation 3:6-8, 12-13


Whoever has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is holy and true, who holds the key of David, who opens what no one can close, who closes what no one can open, says this: I know all about you. And now I have placed before you an open door, which no one can close. I know that though you have limited strength, you have kept my word and not denied my name. I will inscribe on you the Name of my God. On you I will also write my new name. Whoever has ears to hear, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Psalm 25



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.

Text: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 12-14; Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

- 1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my savior.
- 2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander, gently leading the poor and the humble.
- 3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God’s word, who live God’s love, God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

Reading 2 *Letter of Saint Katharina to the Councilors*
December 18th, 1887

Let us commend our Congregation to God the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit guide, lead, direct, animate, and inspirit the Congregation generally and each Sister, each house, each undertaking in all detail, whether it has to do with leaders, other Sisters, or with those entrusted to our care, the children and the sick. There is to be nothing in us or around us that is not living and working for God. We should also talk about the many graces we have received in religious life and that we want to cooperate with grace faithfully. May the Holy Spirit guide, animate, enlighten, and strengthen us through and for all the works and actions according to God’s holy will and pleasure.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of Creation

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Cantor: When the Spirit of truth comes, you will be guided into all truth.

Gospel *John 16:13, 22-24*

When the Spirit of truth comes, you will be guided into all truth. The Spirit won’t speak on its own initiative; rather, the Spirit will speak only what it hears, and will announce to you things that are yet to come. I will see you again and then you’ll rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. On that day you’ll no longer question me about anything. The truth of the matter is, if you ask God for anything in my name, it will be given to you. Ask, and you will receive so that your joy will be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ



Homily

Father Jerry Schweitzer

Commissioning Ceremony

Father Tad Balinda, Chaplain for the PHJC Community

Through the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom, the Sisters have elected Sisters Shirley Bell, Deborah Davis, Marybeth Martin, Connie Bach, and Margaret Anne Henss to Province Leadership for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ here in the United States.

Father Tad

God calls and anoints you today as Leaders to use the gifts bestowed on you in service to this community of Sisters and all with whom and among whom we live and serve.

Province Leadership Team

Loving God, you call us to the ministry of Province Leadership. You have challenged us with responsibilities and you have also blessed us with gifts we need to carry out this ministry.

Sister Shirley

With your grace, I say yes each day to serve as Province Leader of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Sister Deborah

With your grace, I say yes each day to serve as Vicaress and Councilor of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Sister Marybeth

With your grace, I say yes each day to serve as Councilor of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Sister Connie

With your grace, I say yes each day to serve as Councilor of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Sister Margaret Anne

With your grace, I say yes each day to serve as Councilor of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Father Tad

We know from scripture that an anointing with oil is a ritual used to designate people for a special purpose or role. An anointing with oil highlights one's call to a ministry of leadership not as a result of one's own merit but rather a divine call by God.

Sister Shirley Bell, as Province Leader of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and with this new leadership team, may God's transforming love anoint you as you take on this servant leadership ministry.

All: Amen

Sister Deborah Davis, as Vicaress and Councilor of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and with this new leadership team, may God's transforming love anoint you as you take on this servant leadership ministry.

All: Amen

Sister Marybeth Martin, Sister Connie Bach, Sister Margaret Anne Henss
As Councilors of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and with this new leadership team, may God’s transforming love anoint you as you take on this servant leadership ministry.

All: Amen

All Sing

May God bless and keep you. May God's face shine on you.

May God be kind to you and give you peace.

Text: Based on Numbers 6:22–27. Text and music © 1988, 1989, 1990, Christopher Walker.
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Closing Prayer

All: Loving God, we anoint this new leadership team with the gifts of Your Spirit. Grace them with wisdom, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, awe of the Lord, and courage, so that they may journey with us as we venture through unknown and unimaginable thresholds. We trust your transforming love. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Compelled by our vision and our charism we pray for the grace to respond wholeheartedly to the calls of our recent Chapter. Each of the four intercessions is prefaced with the prayer poem that accompanied the Chapter logo of “Standing on the threshold of the unimaginable.”

Annunciation is unimaginable

Expectant, eager for what is to come
Hands reaching out to embrace
Ancient Linden tree cradling new life

We have committed ourselves to assist in creative ways Poor Handmaid ministries in their journey toward sustainability.
With attentiveness and courage we pray,

All: Holy Spirit, lead us into birthing new life.

Incarnation is unimaginable

Birthing a new humanity imbued with love and compassion
Moving beyond boundaries to bring love where there is no love
Hands open to the universe, offering life to all

We have committed ourselves to collaborating with others in serving the immediate needs of vulnerable people and planet and to joining others in advocating for justice.
With attentiveness and courage we pray,

All: Holy Spirit, lead us into transformative relationships with the vulnerable.

Resurrection is unimaginable

Pregnant with ever-expanding possibilities

Choosing to go forward, one foot ready to enter the new,

We face the dawn, the rising sun of a new day

We are committed to keep our actions, choices and decisions in sync with the principles of integral ecology and land justice.

With attentiveness and courage we pray,

All: Holy Spirit, lead us into a new kinship with the web of life.

Pentecost is unimaginable

Burst of wonder, mystery and unharnessed creativity

Heart of our spiritual ancestors born again in all of us,

Reaching out with energy, re-rooting and re-routing

We commit ourselves to moving the internationality and multiculturalism of our congregation, into authentic interculturality expressed through intercultural living.

With attentive ear and courageous heart we pray,

All: Holy Spirit, lead us into deeper and diverse ways of being community.

Father Tad

We pray for the openness, courage, and creativity of the Poor Handmaids of the United States Province to follow the ongoing guidance of the Spirit who invites them to step over the threshold into new possibilities and the emergence of new life through their Chapter commitments. We pray especially for Sisters Shirley, Connie, Deborah, Margaret Anne, and Marybeth as they embrace their call to province leadership for the next four years.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts

You are Called to Tell the Story

1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, Pass - ing
2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm Of the
3. You are called to set the ta - ble, Bless - ing
4. May the One whose love is broad - er Than the

words of life a - long, Then to
dance that nev - er ends, Then to
bread as Je - sus blessed, Then to
meas - ure of all space Give us

blend your voice with oth - ers As you
move with - in the cir - cle, Hand in
come with thirst and hun - ger, Need - ing
words to sing the sto - ry, Move a -



sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in all our
 hand with stran - gers, friends. Christ be known in all our
 care like all the rest. Christ be known in all our
 mong us in this place. Christ be known in all our

sing - ing, Fill - ing all with songs of love.
 danc - ing, Touch - ing all with hands of love.
 shar - ing, Feed - ing all with signs of love.
 liv - ing, Fill - ing all with gifts of love.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: ROSEMARY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc.

Preface Dialogue

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

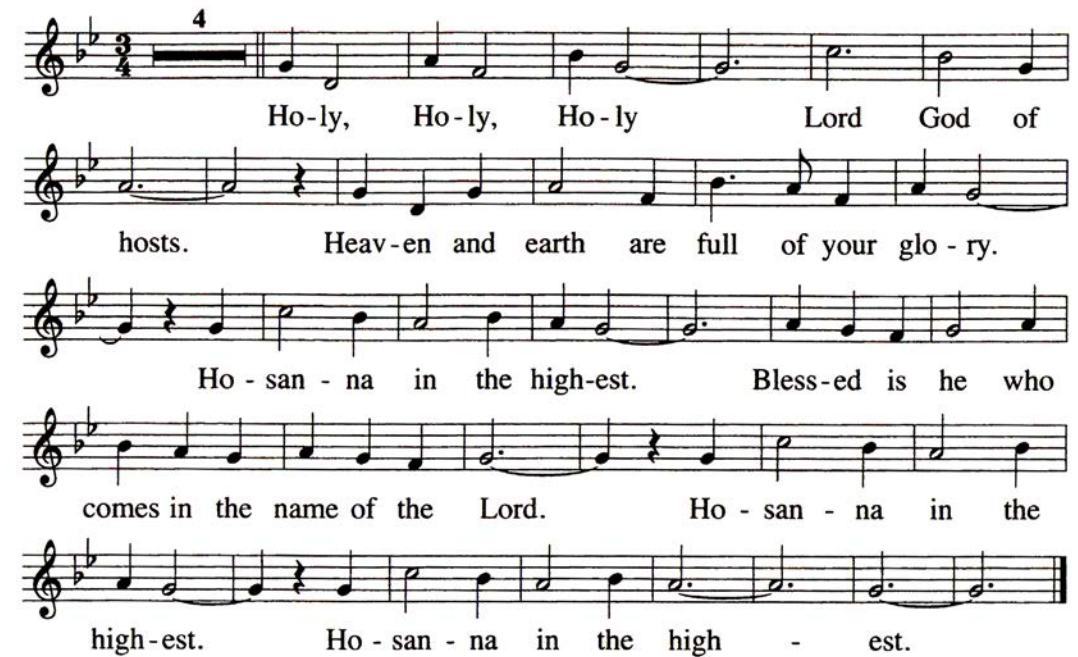
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Holy, Holy

Mass of Creation

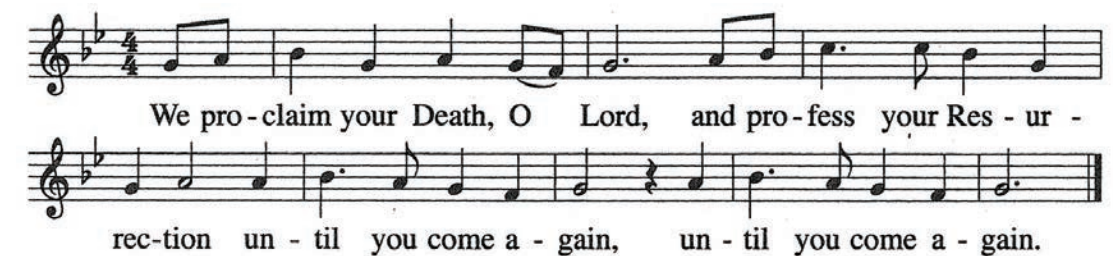


Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
 hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Memorial Acclamation

Mass of Creation



We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your Res - ur -
 rec - tion un - til you come a - gain, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Great Amen

Mass of Creation

A - men, a - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

Lamb of God

Mass of Creation

Cantor: Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the

Assembly: world, have mer - cy on us.

To repeat

Last time

world, grant us peace.

Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

For those who cannot come forward to recieve, please raise your hand and an extraordinary minister will come to you.

Communion Hymn

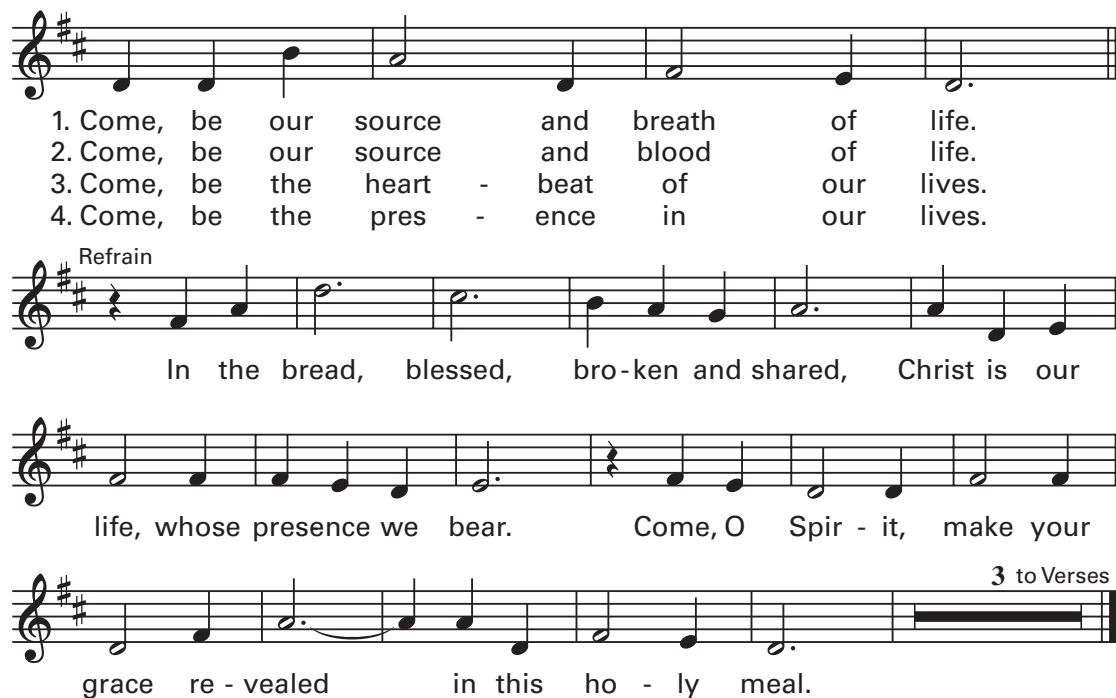
Spirit and Grace

Verses

1. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
2. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
3. Spir - it and grace, here in this place;
4. Spir - it of God, send - ing us forth;

1. you are the wind that breathes through the field.
2. you are the life that flows through the vine.
3. you are the light that shines in this space.
4. we spread your wis-dom through-out all the earth.

1. Gath - er the wheat and form us in Christ.
2. Gath - er this drink and form us in Christ.
3. Gath - er your peo - ple and form us in Christ.
4. Gath - er the na - tions and form us in Christ.



1. Come, be our source and breath of life.
 2. Come, be our source and blood of life.
 3. Come, be the heart - beat of our lives.
 4. Come, be the pres - ence in our lives.

Refrain

In the bread, blessed, bro - ken and shared, Christ is our
 life, whose presence we bear. Come, O Spir - it, make your
 grace re - vealed in this ho - ly meal.

3 to Verses

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Concluding Rites

Gratitude and Invitation

Sister Shirley, PHJC

Newly Elected Province Leader

Closing Hymn

Send Down the Fire



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,
 Send down the rains of your love; Come,
 send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and
 we shall be peo - ple of God.

Verses

1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
 2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
 3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
 4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,

Teach us the song of your love; Give us
 Teach us the way of your peace; Give us
 Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us
 Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your

hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us
 hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us
 right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us
 ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er

D.C.

ring with the song of your love.
 walk in the way of your peace.
 burn with the fire of your truth.
 shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 © 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

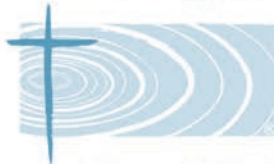
Abundance of Gratitude:

You have reminded us today that we go forth together; we are able to cross over new thresholds because we walk with each other. We are grateful for the many people who have had a part in this day, sharing their time and gifts to help us celebrate together. We are grateful for your presence and prayer with us, whether in this chapel, later in Cana Hall, watching the livestream or in our everyday lives. As we continue to listen to the Spirit's invitation to step over the next threshold, we appreciate your ongoing prayer and promise our prayer for you.

Thank you and blessings,

Province Leadership Team
Sister Shirley, Sister Deborah, Sister Marybeth,
Sister Connie, Sister Margaret Anne

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit